

Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Wildlife Conservation  
**September 2002**

# Analysis and Publication of Sitka Black-tailed Deer Research in Southeast Alaska, 1978–1998

Matthew D. Kirchhoff

Research Performance Report  
1 July 2001–30 June 2002  
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration  
Grant W-27-5, Study 2.12

This is a progress report on continuing research. Information may be refined at a later date.

If using information from this report, please credit author(s) and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**FEDERAL AID  
ANNUAL RESEARCH PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
PO Box 25526  
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

**PROJECT TITLE:** Analysis and publication of Sitka black-tailed deer research in Southeast Alaska 1978-1998.

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Matthew D. Kirchhoff

**COOPERATORS:** None

**FEDERAL AID GRANT PROGRAM:** Wildlife Restoration

**GRANT AND SEGMENT NR.:** W-27-5

**PROJECT NR.:** 2.12

**WORK LOCATION:** Juneau

**STATE:** Alaska

**PERIOD:** July 1, 2001-June 30, 2002

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**I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

OBJECTIVE 1: The single objective of this project is to make a long accumulation of data and deer research results more accessible to the public and our professional peers.

**II. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON JOBS IDENTIFIED IN ANNUAL PLAN THIS PERIOD**

JOB 1: Analyze data

There was no data analysis done during this report period. Most of the work on this project involved writing. With assistance from Denise Kaufman in Headquarters, significant progress has been made converting my reprint library to a computerized system that will allow searching and automatic generation of literature cited sections. Approximately 300 reprints (out of 1500) have been entered using Citation 8 software. Next year I hope to reanalyze data from the retrospective study on selective logging (W-24,4,5 and W-27-1, job 2.11).

JOB 2: Prepare manuscripts for publication

Three papers were prepared for publication. One paper is in review in *Ecology*, titled "Effects of Salmon-Derived nitrogen on riparian forest growth--a comment." The paper comments on observed patterns in forest productivity in riparian habitats, and offers evidence that soil drainage is much more important than salmon presence in controlling tree

growth rates. A second paper has been accepted in peer-reviewed symposium proceedings, and is titled: "The Alaska perspective: Deer in the presence of wolves." This paper analyzes the effects of wolves on deer by (1) looking at deer pellet-group data across the region, (2) describing deer response to the introduction and demise of wolves on Coronation Island, and (3) modeling the numerical response of deer to the possible introduction of wolves on the Queen Charlotte Islands. A third publication is titled "The Alaskan Rainforest." This is a non-technical, 20-page color booklet that was designed and written for visiting tourists, hunters and fisherman, and local teachers. Written by Kevin White and myself, it has been well received and may be reprinted next year with non-federal aid funds.

### **III. ADDITIONAL FEDERAL AID-FUNDED WORK NOT DESCRIBED ABOVE THAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED ON THIS PROJECT DURING THIS SEGMENT PERIOD**

None.

### **IV. PUBLICATIONS**

Kirchhoff M. D., *in review*, Effects of salmon-derived nitrogen on riparian forest growth – a comment. Ecology.

Kirchhoff, M. D. and D. K. Person. *In press*. The Alaska perspective: Deer in the presence of wolves. Pages \_\_\_, *in*: Lessons from the islands: Introduced species and what they tell us about how ecosystems work. Research Group on Introduced Species, Queen Charlotte, BC. Canada.

ADF&G 2002. The Alaskan Rainforest. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Federal Aid Outreach Project, Douglas, AK 99824. 20 pages.

### **V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT**

Spend more time out of the office, working at the University library, so there are fewer distractions and competing demands on my time. With completion of project 15.1 (June 30, 2002), I expect to be able to devote more time next year to writing.

### **VI. APPENDIX**

None.

### **VII. PROJECT COSTS FOR THIS SEGMENT PERIOD (in thousands)**

FEDERAL AID SHARE \$ 31.4      STATE SHARE \$10.5      = TOTAL \$41.9

**VIII. PREPARED BY:**

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**SUBMITTED BY:**

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**APPROVED BY:**

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**APPROVAL DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_